

**Building a  
Community,  
in Unity with  
Christ**



# The Reminder

**August**

**2008**

## Schedule of Events

**August 3**—11:00 a.m.  
Financial Peace Uni-  
versity Preview

**August 10**—12-4 p.m.  
Nothing But Nets  
Fundraiser at Papio  
Bowl

**August 12**—6:30-7:45  
p.m. Discovering Spi-  
ritual Gifts Class

**August 17**—11-5 Don &  
Millie's Day; 11:00  
a.m. Pie Auction; 6:30  
p.m. Financial Peace  
University Begins

**August 27**—6:15 p.m.  
Potluck for Building  
Faith Survivors

## REvelations...

One afternoon while Lew & I were on vacation a man in the campground set a gallon of just-picked blueberries on the table & invited everyone to eat them by the handfuls. It reminded me of the watermelon feasts at grandparents. We would eat our fill, not caring that the juice & seeds ran down our arms & sometimes our bellies. When the melon was gone, we would end the party with Grandpa hosing us down.

August is the month of abundance when berries, sweet corn, and garden produce are at their height. While we are spoiled from being able to buy produce year round that is shipped thousands of miles for our convenience, there is no comparison to the truly fresh off the vine fruits and vegetables of this season.

Jesus said, "I came that you might have life abundantly." What do his words have to do with too many zucchini in the garden? Let me suggest three words: confidence, generosity, and gratitude.

**CONFIDENCE:** Abundance means having confidence that God will provide enough (or more than enough) of what you need. We who are capable of providing so much for ourselves often overlook the importance of cherishing first the things that only God can give:

Reflect on your confidence: Are you content with what you have? Do you live with the assurance that God will provide enough of what you need?

**GENEROSITY:** Abundance is more than a physical reality, it is a spiritual strength. Some of the most powerful witnesses of God's abundance in my life are people who have very little material wealth. Their abundance comes from their relationship with Christ, with the people around them, and in sharing generously everything they have. I have been humbled on more than one occasion when people with so little (to my eyes) give so much to others.

Reflect on your generosity: Are you practicing the generosity that looks for opportunities to give your blessings away? What do you have in abundance that is hard for you to let go of?

**GRATITUDE:** Practicing gratitude is as simple as the grace you say at the table every time you eat. Only, with sit-down meals at home becoming less of a norm, that daily moment of remembering where our life comes from isn't happening as often. Without thanks, our life loses its abundance. It becomes an expectation rather than a gift from God.

How is your practice of giving God the credit and the gratitude for your life?

Sooner than we would like, the produce stands will disappear and we will be left with whatever we had the wisdom to freeze for the winter. Abundance is not just a summer phenomenon. It is the life Christ offers us year-round. How will you nurture an abundant spirit within you for the coming year?

*Rev. Nan*

## Smart Heart Start

The senior high youth is inviting you to a smart heart start. This is the healthy replacement for the donuts. There will be breakfast burritos, fruit yogurt parfaits, blueberry muffins, and pomegranate juice. It is a free will donation from 8:30-11:30 on the first Sunday of every month. Come one come all and enjoy some scrumptious, healthy breakfast with your friends.

### Persons to Keep in Prayer:

-**Millie Renno**, 9139 W 50th Ave #201, Arvada, CO 80002  
-**Jon Olson**, 6418 S. 75th Circle, Ralston, NE 68127  
-**Judy Olson**, Montclair Rehab, 2525 S. 135th Ave, #805, Omaha, NE 68144  
-**Nancy Johnson**, 2824 N. 66th Ave. #169, Omaha, NE 68104  
-**Dela Polston**, 5710 S. 108th #146, Omaha, NE 68137  
-**Frank Johnson**, 7609 Oakwood St., Ralston, NE 68127  
-**Ken Anderson**, 16118 Dorcas St., Omaha, NE 68130  
-**Cecil Lyman**, 11909 Miracle Hills Dr., Omaha, NE 68154  
-**Joan Price**, 918 Michael Drive, Papillion, NE 68046  
-**Nina Henry**, 3009 Albert St., Bellevue, NE 68147  
-**Bill Naviaux**, 19301 Seward Plz #319, Omaha, NE 68022  
-**Joyce Burrell**, 7914 Park Drive, Ralston, NE 68127  
-**Earl Pace**, 4740 S. 79th Ave., Ralston, NE 68127  
-**Al & Sandy Boone**, 11309 Seward Plz #1513, Omaha, NE 68154  
-**Sharon Howarth**, 9109 Tomahawk Blvd., Omaha, NE 68134  
-**Betty Stafford**, 4935 S. 121st St., Omaha, NE 68137  
-**Ron Jack**, 317 Remington Rd, Papillion, NE 68046  
-**Harold Fick**, 4986 S. 87th St., Omaha, NE 68127



**Take a look!**  
THINK OF LOOK!

We want to thank the people of Trinity for your support, prayers, cards, calls, and the many ways you have cared for us during Connie's surgery and Bob's illness and hospitalization. Because of people like you, we find the ways to survive life's little interruptions. *Bob & Connie Folkers*



*Many, many thanks for the cards, calls, inquiries, and prayers, they truly are appreciated. Harold & Marilyn Fick*

### **Summer Book Talks**

Bring a sack lunch and enjoy discussion of some timely books. Bring your thoughts and questions about the book or just come to listen to the conversation. Discussion will be at the church from 11:30-12:30. Please come even if you have not read the book.

August 20 Infidel by Ayaan Hirsi Ali who tells the story of her life as a Muslim and how she came to reject much of her Islamic faith.

### **Nothing But Nets Volleyball Tournament**

August 10, 2008 Noon to 4:00pm  
Papio Bowl Volleyball Courts, 204 E. Lincoln, Papillion

The 7-12<sup>th</sup> grade youth of Trinity are organizing a sand volleyball tournament for August 10, 2008 to raise money for *Nothing But Nets*. NBNets is a joint effort of the United Methodist Church, the NBA and Sports Illustrated, to purchase mosquito nets for families in Africa.

Every 30 seconds a child dies from malaria, contracted from a species of infected mosquitoes that are especially prevalent in sub-Saharan Africa. By sleeping under a \$10 mosquito net coated with insecticide, the death rate can be reduced over 50%.

The youth have set the challenging goal of purchasing 1000 nets for a total of \$10,000. The \$2025 Trinity raised at Annual Conference in the "Great Basketball Stand-down" is a start toward their goal. You can support them by coming out to the tournament and by purchasing nets when they go on sale later this month.

### *You're Invited*

Please join Judy & Larry Moody as they celebrate 50 years of marriage with an Open House on Saturday, August 23, 2-5 p.m. The celebration will be held at Ralston's Senior Center, 7300 Q St. No gifts, please. Your attendance will be their gift.

### **Financial Peace University**

Learn to put together a monthly spending plan, a step-by-step-process for getting out of debt and learn how to really communicate about money.

Free Preview Class Sunday, August 3 at 11 a.m.  
Class begins Sunday, August 17 at 6:30 p.m.



### Donuts

Aug. 3 None Needed  
 Aug. 10 *Open*  
 Aug. 17 *Open*  
 Aug. 24 *Open*  
 Aug. 31 *Open*

### Coffee

Larry/Kathy Braga  
 Dudzinski's  
 Ron/Pat Hein  
 B. Sadler/J. Moody/  
 E. Higgason  
 Ed/Diane Hansler

### Liturgists

Aug. 3 Kim Dean  
 Aug. 10 Matt Ricchini  
 Aug. 17 Amanda Dwyer  
 Aug. 24 Bob Whitehouse  
 Aug. 31 Jan Gorman

## August Birthdays

1-Michelle Christensen	17-Ray Loveland
Valerie Derby	Bob Whitehouse
Christine Drake	19-Stormy Dean
Jef Higgason	Sharon Walsh
Randy Siske	20-Bill Kinsella
Coty Jensen	21-Terry Marchand
3-Ann Tanis	22-Paul Dudzinski
Christopher Eckleberry	Evan Drake
4-Virginia Buchanan	23-Janice Henninger
6-Christian Wintel	Barb Jensen
Zachary Wintle	25-Dee Bruns
9-Nan Kaye-Skinner	Cora Miller
10-Marisa Weichel	Felicia Dodenhof
11-Pat Rogers	27-Matt Hindley
13-Tiffany Johnson	28-Jeanne Houston
14-Jackie Kentfield	29-Bev Sadler
Judy Slavik	31-Roy McAllister
Chris Polivka	Jake Tietgen
15-Ayana Grutel	

### *Pamper Yourself! Taking Care of You*

When: Monday, August 4<sup>th</sup> 2008  
 Where: Ralston Senior Center - 7300 Q Street  
 Time: 11:30am – 12:30pm  
 Topic: Neck Massages & Nail Painting  
 Guest: Deb Felt – Massage Therapist  
 Helpers: The Ralston Cheerleaders  
 Sponsors: Ralston House Apartments (339-9014)  
 Lisa Kentfield with Kentfield Financial  
 Beverages and desserts will be provided  
 Bring your own brown bag lunch

**Trinity's Annual Pie Auction**  
 Sunday, August 17, 11:00 a.m.  
 Watch for more info!

## Building Faith Survivors

Be sure that you are saving your Wednesday evenings this fall for our Building Faith Survivors Program for Children and adults of all ages. We will have a Preview Night on Wednesday, August 27 @ 6:15. The congregation is invited to bring their families and join us for a Potluck Dinner in the Fellowship Hall. Drinks will be provided. Please bring your own table service. A registration table will be set up. Registration forms are available in the office in case you are not able to attend the dinner. The event will be about an hour as we share fellowship and hear from our teachers and leaders about all of the classes and groups that will be available on Wednesday evenings beginning on September 3.

Here is a brief outline:

5:45 – 6:15 Dinner & Fellowship for everyone  
 6:15 - 7:15 Funky Disciples (pre K)  
 Rockin' Disciples (K -1st)  
 Soul Singers (2nd – 6th)  
 Free Spirit ( + Flash) ( 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>)  
 Adult Study Groups  
 7:00 – 8:15 Youth Fellowship  
 7:15 – 8:00 Chancel Choir  
 8:00 – 9:00 Holy Ground

The children's classes will include: Funky Disciples for Pre K, Rockin' Disciples for K-1<sup>st</sup> graders and Soul Singers for those in 2nd – 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Their hour-long activities will include 20 minutes in music, 20 minutes in storytelling and 20 minutes in creative activities related to the lesson of the day. Our semester will culminate on December 21<sup>st</sup> when we share our Christmas County Spelling Bee with the Congregation. The entire semester will be focusing on the preparation for that big event.

In addition to that we will continue Free Spirit for Middle School and High Schoolers. Middle Schoolers will continue their Youth Fellowship/ Confirmation gatherings. Adults are encouraged to build their faith as they participate in small study groups and Chancel Choir. Everyone is invited to lift their praise to God with Holy Ground.



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*Building a Community,  
in Unity with Christ*

Nancy Kaye-Skinner, Pastor  
Pam Vaughn, Dir. of Music Ministries  
Roxanne Lott, Secretary  
Judy Slavik, Custodian  
Judy Dappen, Adult Studies  
Erin Gonzalez, Youth Coordinator  
Kevin Hobson, Children's Ministries

### **July 4th Food Stand**

Proceeds of the Food  
Stand were \$526.24!

### **Discovering My Spiritual Gifts**

*Tuesdays,  
Aug. 12-Sept. 2  
6:30-7:45 p.m.*

We all have talents and skills, but God has also given us Spiritual Gifts to give our lives purpose and passion for living. When we know and use our Gifts we can channel our time and energy into ministries that will be the most rewarding for us. Learn what the Bible shows us about our Gifts and explore which ones God has given you.

### **Coming Soon.....**

#### **What??**

The Embrace Teacher Program

1. A Neighborhood Outreach Mission
2. Entering our fifth year
  - a. You Can Help!!

#### **Where??**

Karen-Western Elementary School

1. The Teachers

#### **Why??**

2. To let the teachers know we appreciate the work they do educating the children throughout the school year

#### **When??**

1. When you see the apples on the bulletin board
2. Pick as many apples as you like
  - a. Buy the items printed on the apples
  - b. Return items to church in a bag with apple attached to bag

#### **Outcome??**

1. Grateful Teachers
  - a. Smiling Faces

#### **Priceless!**

Trinity United Methodist Church  
8009 Q Street  
Ralston, NE 68127

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**Summer Worship 10:00**